

Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program

- **Who Is Eligible To Apply:** Permanent residents of the 14 Southwest Virginia localities which includes the following counties; Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe as well as the towns of Bristol, VA and Norton, VA.

Applicants must have resided in Virginia for a minimum of 12 months

- **When Can I Apply:** The application and its criteria opens March 1, 2007 and closes December 15, 2007. **ALL AWARDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON FUNDING FROM THE VA TOBACCO COMMISSION.** Support documentation must be submitted no later than close of business (6 PM) on December 31, 2007.
- **How Do I Qualify?**
 - **Be a direct descendant (spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild, etc) of a Burley tobacco quota holder, grower, or worker during the indemnification period of 1998 through 2004. You must be able to submit documentation in the form of an MQ-24 from the FSA office showing production or a 1099G from the Federal Government showing participation in the 2005 Burley Tobacco BuyOut.**
 - Submit an online application at www.vatobaccocommission.org from March through December of the funding year. **Please note: Application is subject to being closed prior to the deadline as a result of the depletion of funds.**
 - Be a degree-seeking student at an accredited 4-year college or university.
 - **Only students enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree program are eligible for the award.** Special conditions exist for students seeking teacher licensure only. The applicant must be employed by a VA public school system under a Provisional License and using these funds to satisfy the requirements set forth by VA DOE. Funds cannot be used for endorsement(s) to an existing license nor for recertification.
 - Provide an official transcript as documentation of cumulative GPA. High school graduates need to submit a cumulative grade report showing GPA as based on a 4.0 scale.
 - Attend an accredited in-state or out-of-state four-year public or private college or university;
 - Be a U.S. national, or permanent legal resident of the United States; and a resident of Virginia for a minimum of 12 months.
 - Mail support documentation to reach the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program by the specified in the application process.
- **How are awards made?** Awards are based on cumulative GPA with the highest cumulative GPA's awarded first. Students must be in good academic standing with the college/university. Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, letters of eligibility will be mailed in June, 2007; September, 2007; and January, 2008. A cumulative GPA scale will be determined prior to eligibility letter being sent

What is the amount of the award? The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship:

- Pays up to **\$2,000** per year for tuition and fees in an accredited in-state or out-of-state public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled full-time.
 - Full-time status for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program is **15** undergraduate credit hours per semester or **9** graduate credit hours **per semester**
 - Pays up to **\$1,500** per year for tuition and fees at an accredited in-state or out-of-state public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled in less than **15** undergraduate semester credit hours or **9** graduate credit hours **per semester**.
- **Must I attend an in-state college or university?**
 - The award can be used at any accredited 4-year college or university, in-state or out-of-state. However, the applicant can have no ties to the other state, including driver's license, voter registration, tax payments, etc. Students who are receiving in-state tuition at a college or university outside of Virginia is deemed to have established ties to the other state.
 - **Can I use this award for books, housing, travel, etc?** The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship can be used for tuition and fees ONLY. It does not cover books, housing, travel, etc.
 - **How is this award applied if I receive a Pell Grant, Employer-Sponsored tuition, and/or other grants that do not have to be paid back?** All other gifted assistance must be applied to a student's account before the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship is applied. Eligibility for funding is based on the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship serving as a "last dollar" program not intended to replace or substitute for any other awarded gift assistance. A student can opt to use the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship award instead of Federal Student Loans.
 - **Am I eligible to apply for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship throughout my education, i.e. Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees?** The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship may be used to complete **ONLY** one degree program or 4 years whichever comes first. Lifetime program benefit is restricted to the completion of one degree program.
 - **What do I need to do to ensure receiving my award as outlined funding for the Fall and Spring semesters?**

You must submit verification of enrollment from the registrar's office or a copy of your schedule for each semester. This documentation must be received within 14 days after enrollment for each semester.